



# NOAA

NATIONAL OCEANIC AND  
ATMOSPHERIC ADMINISTRATION  
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE



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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**  
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## **NOAA'S Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary Seeks Applicants for Advisory Council – Including a Newly Created Youth/Student Seat**

NOAA's Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary (sanctuary) is seeking to fill eight primary seats and eight alternate seats on its advisory council. The council represents the public's interests in sanctuary matters and provides advice to the sanctuary superintendent and state co-manager. Additionally, the HIHWNMS will be one of the first sanctuaries in the country to recruit a youth member seat to participate on the advisory council.

The council's role is to provide the sanctuary management with advice on resource protection, research, education and outreach programs. Topics that the council is currently addressing include: ocean acidification, protection of areas of cultural and biological importance, response and rescue efforts for marine animals, vessel-whale collisions, proposed development activities within sanctuary waters, and planning to engage communities and seek public input during the review and revision process for the sanctuary's current management plan.

The sanctuary is currently accepting applications for primary and alternate seats representing Native Hawaiians, Fishing, Education, Research, Honolulu County, Hawaii County, Maui County, and Kauai County. Candidates will be selected based on their expertise and experience in relation to the seat for which they are applying, community and professional affiliations, and views regarding the protection and management of marine resources.

Additionally, for the first time, the sanctuary is seeking to fill a non-voting youth/student seat and alternate seat to represent the youth segment of the community, defined as ages 14-17. The interest and enthusiasm of youth under the age of 18 is very important to the sanctuary; these students are our future generation of ocean stewards and leaders. The sanctuary wishes to foster and facilitate these links with youth in sanctuary communities and has added a non-voting youth seat to the advisory council.

The Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale Sanctuary Advisory Council was established in March 1996 to ensure continuous public participation in the management of the sanctuary. The council's 17 voting members and 15 non-voting members, who serve on a volunteer basis, represent a variety of local user groups, the general public, and state and federal governmental jurisdictions. Alternates attend meetings when primary members are not available and assume a seat if a primary member resigns.

Applications are due by Jan. 31, 2010. To receive an application kit or for further information, please contact council coordinator Joe Paulin via e-mail at [Joseph.Paulin@noaa.gov](mailto:Joseph.Paulin@noaa.gov), by phone at 808-397-2651, ext. 257, or visit the sanctuary website at <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>. Completed applications should be submitted to: Joe Paulin, Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary, 6600 Kalanianaʻole Highway, Suite 301, Honolulu, Hawaii 96825.

The sanctuary is administered by a partnership of NOAA's National Marine Sanctuary Program and the State of Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources. NOAA understands and predicts changes in the Earth's environment, from the depths of the ocean to the surface of the sun, and conserves and manages our coastal and marine resources. Visit <http://www.noaa.gov>.

On the Web:

Hawaiian Islands Humpback Whale National Marine Sanctuary: <http://hawaiihumpbackwhale.noaa.gov>  
NOAA Office of National Marine Sanctuaries: <http://sanctuaries.noaa.gov>